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Its, Fewer, and Affect: Native Speaker Mistakes

Medium | B1 | Intermediate | B2 | Upper Intermediate | Apostrophe | Comparative and superlative | Countable and uncountable | Determiner | Future tense | Noun | Possessive | Pronoun | Punctuation | Verb | Collocations

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1. Complete the grammar-obsessed supervillain's monologue at the grocery store.

"You fool! You have ten items in the express lane! You should have brought ___ items, which would have caused me ___ stress!"

Select one.

- **A)** less / fewer
- **B)** less / less
- **C)** fewer / less
- **D)** fewer / fewer

2. Help the eccentric biologist finish her field notes on a highly dramatic chameleon by choosing the correct word for each gap.

"The chameleon is truly fascinating; _____ ability to change color is unparalleled in the animal kingdom. However, _____ quite obvious that this particular lizard has completely forgotten _____ own camouflage mechanism, as _____ currently glowing bright pink while sitting on a dark green leaf."

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** its
- **B)** it's
- **C)** its'

Blank 2

- **A)** it's
- **B)** its
- **C)** its'

Blank 3

- **A)** its
- **B)** it's
- **C)** its'

Blank 4

- **A)** it's
- **B)** its
- **C)** its'

3. Help the frustrated owner complete their online appliance review.

"My new smart fridge is completely broken; ___ convinced that ___ only purpose in life is to freeze my lettuce."

Select one.

- **A)** its / it's
- **B)** it's / it's
- **C)** its / its
- **D)** it's / its

4. Help the tech reviewer complete their dramatic verdict on the new AI toaster.

The smart toaster seems to have a mind of _____ own, and _____ becoming quite clear that the machine absolutely despises my choice of bagels.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** it's
- **B)** its
- **C)** its'

Blank 2

- **A)** its
- **B)** it's
- **C)** its'

5. Help the mad scientist finalize his evil laboratory report.

"The new potion will ___ the town's water supply, creating a disastrous ___ on everyone's hair color."

Select one.

- **A)** effect / affect
- **B)** affect / affect
- **C)** effect / effect
- **D)** affect / effect

6. Help the grammar-obsessed supermarket manager fix the express lane signs.

If you want to survive the express checkout lane, you must have _____ than ten items in your cart and significantly _____ patience for people who try to pay with pennies.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** less
- **B)** fewer
- **C)** few

Blank 2

- **A)** fewer
- **B)** less
- **C)** little

7. Help the mad scientist document the results of his anti-gravity potion by choosing the correct word for each gap.

"The potion didn't _____ the gravity in the laboratory as I had hoped. Instead, the only noticeable _____ was that my poor assistant began to float toward the ceiling. I must study how this formula will _____ my future funding, because the side _____ of these experiments are getting terribly expensive!"

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** affect
- **B)** effect
- **C)** affectate

Blank 2

- **A)** effect
- **B)** affect
- **C)** affection

Blank 3

- **A)** affect
- **B)** effect
- **C)** effective

Blank 4

- **A)** effects
- **B)** affects
- **C)** effectives

8. Help the frantic engineer review the incident report about a malfunctioning robot dog. Select ALL the sentences that correctly use "its" and "it's".

Select all that apply.

- **A)** It's obvious that the robot dog lost its favorite titanium bone.
- **B)** The company announced that it's recalling the model because of its faulty tail.
- **C)** Its a shame that the mechanical dog chewed on it's own charging cable.
- **D)** The cat laughed as its robotic rival chased it's tail in endless circles.

9. Complete the mad scientist's lab notes regarding the latest experimental potion.

I hoped the radioactive broccoli would _____ the intern's super-strength, but the only noticeable side _____ was his sudden desire to sing opera.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** effect
- **B)** affect
- **C)** infect

Blank 2

- **A)** affect
- **B)** effect
- **C)** defect

10. Complete the alien commander's report on Earth's internet.

"The internet has a strange ___ on humans; ___ constantly distracting them from building spaceships."

Select one.

- **A)** affect / its
- **B)** effect / its
- **C)** effect / it's
- **D)** affect / it's

11. Peek into the mad scientist's laboratory diary. Select ALL the sentences that correctly use "affect" and "effect".

Select all that apply.

- **A)** The neon green potion had a bizarre effect on my assistant's hair.
- **B)** Will adding a handful of glitter affect the explosion's radius?
- **C)** I didn't expect the bubbling mixture to effect his eyebrows so drastically.
- **D)** The side affects include glowing in the dark and sudden urges to tap dance.